

Combined Districts of
BATHAVON, KEYNSHAM,
FROME (Urban and Rural).

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the Year 1943.

R. H. G. HECTOR DENHAM, M.D., C.H.B., D.P.H.,
• Medical Officer of Health.

Health Department,
9, Royal Crescent,
Bath.
Telephone : Bath 5789.

INDEX

GENERAL.

	<i>Page</i>
Air Raid Precautions	6
Cerebro-spinal Fever	5
Diphtheria	4
Pneumonia	5
Scabies	5
Scarlet Fever	4
Statistical Table	7
Tuberculosis	5
Whooping Cough and Measles	4

BATHAVON.

Births and Still Births	10
Deaths	11
Deaths under 1 year of age	12
Extracts from Vital Statistics	10
Notifiable Diseases	12
Report of the Sanitary Inspector	13
Tuberculosis	12

KEYNSHAM.

Births and Still Births	20
Deaths	21
Deaths under 1 year of age	22
Extracts from Vital Statistics	20
Infant Welfare Centre	23
Notifiable Diseases	22
Report of the Sanitary Inspector	25
Sick Bay	24
Tuberculosis	22
War Time Nursery	23

FROME URBAN.

Births and Still Births	30
Deaths	31
Deaths under 1 year of age	32
Extracts from Vital Statistics	30
Infant Welfare Centre	33
Notifiable Diseases	32
Report of the Sanitary Inspector	33
Scabies Treatment Centre	33
Tuberculosis	32
War Time Nursery	33

FROME RURAL.

Births and Still Births	40
Deaths	41
Deaths under 1 year of age	42
Extracts from Vital Statistics	40
Notifiable Diseases	42
Report of the Sanitary Inspector	43
Tuberculosis	42

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
COUNCIL OFFICES,
9, ROYAL CRESCENT,
BATH.

*To the Chairmen and Members of the
Bathavon, Keynsham and Frome
District Councils.*

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Fifth Annual Report on the health and sanitary conditions of the combined areas of Bathavon, Keynsham and Frome (Urban and Rural).

The satisfactory position reported at the end of 1942 has been maintained during 1943, and for the second year in succession no death has occurred from any of the commoner infectious diseases excluding Tuberculosis and Pneumonia.

The infantile mortality rate of 29.47 is practically identical with last year's low figure of 29.6, and is in itself an index of the satisfactory nature of the war-time health of the area.

A notable event which took place during the year and one which was directly related to the health of the community, was the publication of the Beveridge Report. This resulted in the presentation to Parliament by the Minister of Health, in February of this year, of a White Paper outlining a National Health Service.

While one does not wish at this stage to pass adverse comments on what are obviously intended as proposals designed to invite criticism from the medical profession in order that something of real benefit may result, nevertheless, one does express the hope that the Minister will not be unmindful of the fact that while it is vitally necessary to aim at securing the most efficient health services possible, it is equally necessary to remember that the most progressive attitude towards disease is that of prevention, and that a very great deal of our energies should be directed to this end.

I wish to express my thanks to the Chairmen and Members of the Councils of the combined districts, and also to the Council staffs for their continued assistance in maintaining the efficient operation of the health services in the area.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

R. H. G. HECTOR DENHAM.

July, 1944.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

SCARLET FEVER

An increased number of cases of Scarlet Fever were notified ; 112 as against 48 for the previous year. The disease continued to be mild, however, and there were no deaths.

WHOOPING COUGH AND MEASLES

There was some increase in the number of cases of Whooping Cough, 85 being notified as against 64 for 1942. Measles reached epidemic proportions in some parts of the area, 517 cases being notified as against 21 for the previous year. There were no deaths from either disease.

DIPHTHERIA

The diminishing incidence of Diphtheria reported for the previous two years was continued during 1943. 14 cases were notified against 22 for 1942, and for the second year in succession no death occurred from this disease. Immunisation was still pressed in every part of the area, and the satisfactory average of 80% reported last year was increased. Some of the smaller schools, in fact, have reached the 100% figure. Most of the injections were given at the schools, and during the year over 100 visits were made for this purpose.

The percentage of children under five years of age who have been immunised is not so satisfactory. This is partly due to the fact that some of the mothers have the mistaken idea that protection is only necessary when the child reaches school age. Statistics prove very definitely that immunity should be secured at a much earlier age than this, and the usual present-day practice is to commence the inoculations as soon as the child reaches his first birthday.

Immunisation continues to be available for the Bathavon area on Saturday mornings at the Health Department, 9, Royal Crescent, Bath. For the Frome Urban and Rural areas at the Frome Dispensary on Wednesdays at 2.30 p.m., and for the Keynsham area at the First Aid Post, Temple Street, by appointment.

A stock of Diphtheria anti-toxin serum is still held at each of the Council Offices in the area to serve the needs of practitioners during the day. Out-of-office hours, that is, between the hours of 5 p.m. and 9 a.m., the serum can be obtained from the following premises :—

Bath City Police Station for the Bathavon area.

Keynsham P.A. Institution for the Keynsham area.

Victoria Hospital, Frome, for the Frome Urban and Frome Rural areas.

CEREBRO-SPINAL FEVER

Only 2 cases were notified during the year and both completely recovered.

TUBERCULOSIS

There was a slight increase in the number of cases of Tuberculosis notified during the year. 45 cases of pulmonary against 40 for 1942, and 12 cases of non-pulmonary against 11 for 1942.

SCABIES

Cases continue to be reported from schools in most parts of the area, but the degree of severity of the average case appears to have lessened considerably. No great difficulty has been experienced in arranging treatment of any case and no action was necessary under the Scabies Order (1940). As reported last year, in-patient treatment for children up to the age of 14 was available at the Sick Bay at Hamleaze, Keynsham and out-patient treatment of children and adults at the treatment centres at Frome and Midsomer Norton, and at the Bristol Clinic by arrangement with the Bristol Health Department.

PNEUMONIA

Twenty-seven cases of Pneumonia were notified and there were 8 deaths, giving a case mortality rate of 30%. As a number of the cases were not notified as Pneumonia until the attention of the practitioner was drawn to the fact that he had certified the death as due to Pneumonia, it is possible that other cases were not notified and the case mortality rate would, therefore, be lower.

AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS

Casualty Services

NO. 2 (BATHAVON) AREA

The Casualty services appear to have maintained a satisfactory level of efficiency during the year and, as in previous years, continuous training both in the form of lectures and exercises has been carried out in most parts of the area.

I am indebted to Mr. Barrett, the Area Organiser, for the following note on the main changes that have taken place during the year :—

“ The Services in the Area have, during the last twelve months, been organised on the Combined Party System, the existing First Aid Parties merging with the Rescue Service.

“ The reason for the change was the experience gained following the enemy's use of much heavier calibre bombs than those used when the services were formed as separate units. The natural result was a considerable increase in the trapping of casualties and a corresponding increase in the amount of rescue work necessary before first-aid treatment could be carried out.

“ Under the combined scheme there are now 17 Rescue Parties operating in the Area, the personnel being trained in both rescue operations and first-aid work.

“ The static services remain the same as last year and have been maintained at their usual standard.

“ The alterations to the First Aid Post at Frome have been completed, and though these are short of what I would have wished, the Post is capable of dealing effectively with 20 to 25 cases per hour.

“ A general examination of all the civilian type respirators has been made during the past year and the ability of the public to protect themselves if gas should be used by the enemy remains as certain as when the respirators were first issued. The question as to whether the enemy will, or will not, use gas is to my mind unworthy of consideration. The only sensible procedure is to assume that gas will be used and to ensure that the public have as complete protection from it as it is possible to give them.”

STATISTICAL TABLE

The following table shows the comparative birth rates, death rates and infantile mortality rates for the combined districts for the years 1939—1943 with the corresponding figures for England and Wales.

The areal comparability factors have again been suspended by the Ministry of Health, and the death rates shown in the statistics for the years 1942 and 1943 are therefore the recorded rates only.

		Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Infantile Mortality Rate.
Combined Districts, 1939	..	13.8	11.1	45.2
England and Wales, 1939	..	15.0	12.1	50.0
Combined Districts, 1940	..	12.9	11.9	51.1
England and Wales, 1940	..	14.6	14.3	55.0
Combined Districts, 1941	..	13.2	11.8	45.2
England and Wales, 1941	..	14.2	12.9	59.0
Combined Districts, 1942	..	16.4	11.7	29.6
England and Wales, 1942	..	15.8	11.6	49.0
Combined Districts, 1943	..	18.68	11.44	29.47
England and Wales, 1943	..	16.5	12.1	49.0

The general death and infantile mortality rates remain practically stationary, but the birth rate has a definite upward trend. The figures still bear favourable comparison with those of the country as a whole.

Bathavon Rural District Council.

Chairman of the Council P. M. WILCOX, Esq., J.P.

Chairman of the Sanitary Committee .. T. L. FREEMAN, Esq.

Senior Sanitary Inspector C. C. AXFORD, Cert. S.I.B.,
M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I.

Additional Sanitary Inspector H. C. L. MORRIS, Cert. S.I.B.,
M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I.

Health Department Clerk Miss TENNANT, app. June, 1943.

" " " F. K. KELWAY, resigned June,
1943.

COUNCIL OFFICES,
9, ROYAL CRESCENT, BATH.

Telephone : Bath 4283/4.

Health Department : Bath 5789.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

The number of live Births registered, adjusted for inward and outward transfers, total 374.

				<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Legitimate	..	..	..	181	164	345
Illegitimate	..	..	..	12	17	29
				<hr/> 193	<hr/> 181	<hr/> 374

STILL BIRTHS

				<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Legitimate	..	..	..	4	3	7
Illegitimate	..	..	..	1	—	1
				<hr/> 5	<hr/> 3	<hr/> 8

Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population						
mid 1943	..	..	..	..	..	17.94
Still Births, rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	..					20.94
Death Rate, rate per 1,000 estimated average population						11.22

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—

All Infants per 1,000 live births	..	..	..	37.43
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births				34.78
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births				68.97

Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis	..	..	..	..	Nil
„ „ Other Puerperal Causes	..	..	..	..	Nil
„ „ Cancer (all ages)	..	..	..	..	33
„ „ Measles (all ages)	..	..	..	..	Nil
„ „ Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	Nil
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	..	..	..	..	2

DEATHS

The number of deaths, adjusted for inward and outward transfers total 234, 119 males and 115 females. The following Table indicates the cause of death :—

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	2	—	2
Other forms of Tuberculosis	1	1	2
Syphilitic Diseases	1	—	1
Influenza	3	6	9
Measles	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Acute Infantile Encephalitis	—	—	—
Cancer of Oesoph. and Uterus	1	3	4
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	2	1	3
Cancer of all other sites	13	11	24
Cancer of Breast	—	2	2
Diabetes	—	—	—
Intracranial Vascular Lesions	13	19	32
Heart Disease	24	38	62
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	3	3	6
Bronchitis	5	3	8
Pneumonia	5	3	8
Other Respiratory Diseases	2	1	3
Diarrhoea under 2 years of age	1	1	2
Appendicitis	1	2	3
Other Digestive Diseases	2	1	3
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	2	—	2
Nephritis	4	2	6
Puerperal and Post Abortive Sepsis	—	—	—
Other Maternal Causes	—	—	—
Premature Birth	2	—	2
Congenital Malformation, Birth Injury	6	2	8
Suicide	—	—	—
Road Traffic Accidents	4	1	5
Other Violent Causes	5	3	8
All Other Causes	17	12	29
	119	115	234

Deaths under 1 year of age

There were 13 deaths of Infants under 1 year of age, 10 males and 3 females, divided as follows :—

Under 1 week ..	6	1-4 weeks ..	2
1-6 months ..	3	6-12 months ..	2

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (Other than Tuberculosis)

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases Admitted to Isolation Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	47	38	—
Diphtheria	9	9	—
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid) ..	—	—	—
Measles	224	2	—
Whooping Cough ..	48	2	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	3	3	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	8	8	—
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	1	1	—
Dysentery	—	—	—
Pneumonia	5	—	2
Acute Poliomyelitis ..	1	—	—
Erysipelas	6	1	—
	352	64	2

TUBERCULOSIS

Sixteen cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified, 11 male and 5 female. Five cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified, 2 male and 3 female.

	<i>Total Cases notified</i>	<i>Total Deaths</i>
Respiratory	16	2
Non-Respiratory	5	2

No action was necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

The Bathavon and Keynsham Tuberculosis Care Committee continues to do very good work under the chairmanship of Miss Date.

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

WATER SUPPLIES

Details of the water supplies of the various Parishes are given hereunder :—

Parish.	By whom supplied.	Percentage of houses with water laid on.	Percentage served served with standpipes	
Bathampton ..	R.D.C. and Bath Corp.	95%	1%	Chlorinated.
Batheaston ..	Bath Corp.	97%	—	„
Bathford ..	R.D.C.	86%	14%	„
Camerton ..	R.D.C.	58%	40%	„
Charlcombe ..	Bath Corp.	47%	—	„
Claverton ..	Combe Down Water Co. & Estate supply	81%	—	„
Compton Dando ..	Private	20%	4%	Unchlorinated.
Combe Hay ..	Private	7%	—	„
Corston ..	Part West Glos. Water Co., part private	18%	72%	Part Chlor. „ Unchlor.
Dunkerton ..	R.D.C.	42%	18%	Chlorinated.
Englishcombe ..	Combe Down Water Co. & private	37%	—	„
Freshford ..	Combe Down Water Co.	86%	10%	„
Hinton Charterhouse	R.D.C.	69%	14%	„
Kelston ..	Private	87%	—	Unchlorinated.
Marksbury ..	R.D.C.	9%	51%	Chlorinated.
Monkton Combe ..	Part Combe Down Water Co., part private	97%	—	Part Chlor. „ Unchlor.

Report of the Sanitary Inspector—contd.

Parish.	By whom supplied.	Percentage of houses with water laid on.	Percentage served with standpipes	
Newton St. Loe ..	Private	19%	14%	Unchlorinated.
Northstoke ..	Part R.D.C.	38%	61%	„
Priston ..	Part private Priston Water Supply Co.	9%	76%	Unchlorinated.
Southstoke ..	Combe Down Water Co.	91%	—	Chlorinated
St. Catherine ..	Bath Corp.	38%	—	„
Swainswick ..	R.D.C. and Bath Corp.	94%	—	Part Chlor. „ Unchlor.
Wellow ..	R.D.C.	80%	11%	Part Chlor. „ Unchlor.
Weston ..	Bath Corp.	96%	4%	Chlorinated.
Whitchurch ..	West Glos. Water Co.	97%	—	„

The statutory water undertakers maintained a constant supply during the year to the parishes served by them.

With the exception of the Parishes of Bathford and Swainswick a constant supply was maintained in those parishes supplied by the Bathavon Council. The shortage of water at Bathford was chiefly due to abnormal demands owing to war-time conditions, and the shortage at Swainswick was due to a corroded length of main. After this had been remedied the supply was adequate.

The augmentation of the Peasedown and district supply has been very successful and has resulted in a large saving in cost and enabled this supply to be independent of other sources of supply during emergencies.

No serious complaints were received as to inadequate water supply in those parishes served by private supplies.

Twenty-two samples from the various supplies were analysed. No serious contamination prevailed.

SEWERAGE

The sewers and sewage disposal systems, with the exception of the disposal plant at Wellow, functioned satisfactorily and no

trouble was experienced with them. We were not able to make any extensions to the systems, although a number are urgently required. At the time of writing the Council are actively engaged in making a survey of their post-war requirements and a Civil Engineer has been engaged to prepare sewerage schemes for the parishes of Dunkerton, Camerton, parts of Wellow, Freshford and Corston, and for reconstruction of the sewage works at Wellow, so that the work may be put in hand as soon as possible after the cessation of hostilities.

HOUSE REFUSE DISPOSAL

During the year a reorganisation of the method of collecting house refuse was undertaken. The employment of Contractors for collecting was discontinued and the Council purchased three vehicles, two being of the standard covered type.

With the exception of certain outlying districts refuse is collected from 23 out of the 25 parishes.

The frequency of collection varies from fortnightly in the more thickly-populated parishes to quarterly in the sparsely-populated.

Throughout the greater part of the district a house-to-house collection of salvage is combined with the refuse collection, and during the year 255 tons were collected and sold for £1,227.

The bulk of the refuse was disposed of at the Bath City destructor works, the remainder being disposed of in old disused quarries.

HOUSING

A comprehensive survey has been made of working-class houses throughout the district. This necessarily has taken up a great deal of time, but the information gained has been of great value in enabling the Council to formulate their post-war housing scheme.

As a result of the inspections the Council have prepared the following programme :—

Number of houses proposed to be demolished in the first year	189
Number of houses proposed to be demolished in 2-5 years	101
Number of houses required for agricultural population first year	61
Number of houses required for agricultural population 2-5 years	20
Number of houses included in scheme for action under Section 9 Housing Act, 1936	157
Number of houses required to be erected for general needs	263

At the time of writing the Council have sites available for the erection of houses in *seven* parishes, and are negotiating for the purchase of further sites in 23 villages.

MILK

The number of Producers on the Register was 225. There were 38 farms producing Accredited Milk and 13 farms producing Tuberculin Tested. One license to pasteurise milk, and one license to bottle Tuberculin Tested Milk was issued by the Council.

Examination of milk samples is carried out by the County Council. 77 Accredited, 29 Tuberculin Tested, 4 pasteurised and 16 samples for the presence of tubercle bacilli were submitted for examination. Where unsatisfactory results were obtained the matter was followed up.

Routine inspection of dairies and cowsheds was carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors. Whitewashing and general cleanliness were well maintained by the producers. In four cases only was it necessary to remind farmers of the regulations.

We have been successful at nine farms in getting improvements carried out. Owners having been persuaded to lay on main water, to recondition floors and drainage and to improve generally the standard of the premises.

SUPERVISION OF FOOD

The 11 slaughterhouses in the district are still not in use owing to the Government scheme of centralised slaughtering.

During inspections made at retail shops the following foods were found to be unfit for human consumption :—

78 lbs.	of Meat.
37 tins	of Meat products.
20	„ Fruit.
22	„ Jam.
18	„ Milk.
14	„ Fish.
7	„ Vegetables.

GENERAL

Infectious Disease.—Routine disinfections and enquiries have been carried out in respect of the infectious cases reported by the Medical Office of Health. In addition, visits have been made in connection with the disinfection and washing of bedding and the giving of advice to parents after cases of Scabies and head lice.

Smoke Abatement.—We have had no trouble in any way with smoke arising from chimneys, and it has therefore not been necessary for any action to be taken.

Bakehouses.—There are no underground bakehouses in the district. The 10 bakehouses have been periodically inspected and all were satisfactorily maintained.

Camping Sites.—Seven licences authorising land to be used as a site for movable dwellings and 19 licences to erect or station and

use individual dwellings were granted under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936. The licences are granted for a maximum period of 6 months, after which the applications are again considered. The majority of licences granted are for trailer caravans. No difficulty was experienced with regard to the sanitary arrangements, etc., except in one case and here the licence was cancelled.

Rats and Mice.—In such places where rats have been found or reported, disinfection was carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors or advice and free bait given to the occupiers of the premises.

Vermin.—One very bad case of flea infestation and two cases of bed bugs were reported. In each case, after disinfection was carried out by the Inspectors, no further complaints were received.

There is one licenced Knackers Yard in use in the district.

There are no Public Swimming Pools or common lodging houses in the district.

Keynsham Urban District Council.

Chairman of the Council G. E. CHAPPELL, Esq., J.P.

Chairman of the Health Committee A. W. POWELL, Esq.

Sanitary Inspector H. W. ARGILE, M.I.M. & Cy.E.,
A.R.S.I.

Assistant Sanitary Inspector D. F. G. LOCKYEAR (Active
Service).

COUNCIL OFFICES,
KEYNSHAM.

Telephone : Keynsham 291/3.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

Births

The number of live Births registered, adjusted for inward and outward transfers total 146.

				<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Legitimate	..	..	..	74	68	142
Illegitimate	..	..	..	2	2	4
				<hr/> 76	<hr/> 70	<hr/> 146

Still Births

				<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Legitimate	..	..	..	2	4	6
Illegitimate	..	..	..	<hr/>—	<hr/>—	<hr/>—
				2	4	6

Birth Rate, per 1,000 estimated resident population mid 1943	..	..	..	..	..	20.26
Still Births, rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	..					39.47
Death Rate, rate per 1,000 estimated average population						11.24

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—

All Infants per 1,000 live births	..	..	..	13.70
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births				14.08
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births				Nil

Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis	..	..	..	..	Nil
„ „ Other Puerperal causes	..	..	..	..	Nil
„ „ Cancer (all ages)	..	..	..	..	10
„ „ Measles (all ages)	..	..	..	..	Nil
„ „ Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	Nil
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	..	..	..	..	Nil

DEATHS

The number of Deaths, adjusted for inward and outward transfers total 81, 43 males and 38 females. The following Table indicates the cause of death :—

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	1	1	2
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	—	—	—
Syphilitic Diseases	1	—	1
Influenza	1	1	2
Measles	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Acute Infantile Encephalitis	—	—	—
Cancer of Oesoph. and Uterus	—	1	1
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	2	—	2
Cancer of Breast	—	—	—
Cancer of all Other Sites	6	1	7
Diabetes	—	—	—
Intracranial Vascular Lesions	1	6	7
Heart Disease	12	15	27
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	—	2	2
Bronchitis	5	1	6
Pneumonia	—	1	1
Other Respiratory Diseases	—	—	—
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	1	—	1
Diarrhoea under 2 years of age	—	—	—
Appendicitis	—	—	—
Other Digestive Diseases	3	3	6
Nephritis	1	1	2
Puerperal and Post Abortive Sepsis	—	—	—
Other Maternal Causes	—	—	—
Premature Birth	1	—	1
Congenital Malformation, Birth Injury	1	—	1
Suicide	1	—	1
Road Traffic Accidents	—	—	—
Other Violent Causes	1	—	1
All Other Causes	5	5	10
	43	38	81

Deaths under 1 year of age

There were 2 deaths of Infants under 1 year of age, both being males, divided as follows :—

Under 1 week	..	1	|	1-4 weeks	..	Nil
1-6 months	..	1	|	6-12 months	..	Nil

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (Other than Tuberculosis)

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases Admitted to Isolation Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	25	14	—
Diphtheria	4	4	—
Enteric Fever (includ- ing Paratyphoid) ..	3	2	—
Measles	248	—	—
Whooping Cough ..	9	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	2	—	—
Ophthalmia Neona- torum	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Menin- gitis	1	1	—
Dysentery	3	—	—
Pneumonia	10	—	1
Acute Poliomyelitis ..	—	—	—
Erysipelas	6	—	—
	311	21	1

TUBERCULOSIS

Eleven cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified, 8 male and 3 female. Five cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified, 3 male and 2 female.

	<i>Total cases notified</i>	<i>Total deaths</i>
Respiratory	11 (3 Army)	2
Non-Respiratory	5 (1 „)	—

No action was necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

KEYNSHAM INFANT WELFARE CENTRE

The attendances for the year and numbers of children on the Register at the end of the year showed an increase on last year's figures. The energy and enthusiasm displayed by all concerned with the Centre since its inception in 1939 continued to be a feature of the year's working.

	<i>Keynsham</i>	<i>Saltford</i>	<i>Evacuee</i>	<i>Total</i>
Totals on the Register at the beginning of the year	275	43	19	.. 337
Totals on the Register at the end of the year	323	44	16	.. 383

The attendances for the year were as follows :—

	<i>Keynsham</i>	<i>Saltford</i>	<i>Evacuee</i>	<i>Total</i>
January	111	20	—	.. 131
February	90	18	—	.. 108
March	179	18	—	.. 197
April	156	9	—	.. 165
May	171	9	—	.. 180
June	192	10	—	.. 202
July	156	7	—	.. 163
August	175	3	—	.. 178
September	198	11	—	.. 209
October	162	16	2	.. 180
November	169	13	—	.. 182
December	183	5	—	.. 188
	<hr/> 1,942	<hr/> 139	<hr/> 2	<hr/> 2,083

Attendances for 1942 ..	1,340	193	14	1,547
-------------------------	-------	-----	----	-------

KEYNSHAM WAR-TIME NURSERY

The alterations at the Nursery outlined in last year's Report were completed in April, 1943, and resulted in considerable improvement in the working conditions.

Changes were effected in the staffing arrangements by the substitution of domesticated women for the probationers who were transferred elsewhere. The new arrangements worked well, notwithstanding great inconvenience caused during the summer months by shortage of staff owing to illness.

A full-time assistant warden was appointed to deal with the increased work in the school room.

Sister Holford left during the year owing to the reduction in

the numbers of babies under 2 years of age, and a nursery assistant was appointed in her place.

A number of cases of Chicken-Pox and Measles were reported early in the year, but on the whole the attendance has been good. The average daily attendance was 37 and the highest for any one day in the year was 47.

KEYNSHAM SICK BAY

The Sick Bay at Hamleaze which was first opened for the reception of cases in August, 1942, has proved the complete answer to many of the problems which repeatedly arose in arranging for the accommodation of children for whom treatment at home was difficult or impossible to carry out, and for whom admission to hospital was equally impossible to arrange.

Under Ministry of Health Circular No. 2228, the facilities of a Sick Bay were also made available for similar types of cases occurring among transferred war workers, including members of the Women's Land Army. As reported last year this is the only Sick Bay in the combined areas of Keynsham, Bathavon and Frome.

The number of cases admitted during the year has been rather less than anticipated, but this is no doubt due to the reduced numbers of evacuated children in the area. Nevertheless, a fairly steady stream has been maintained chiefly of cases of Scabies and Impetigo.

A number of structural improvements have been carried out, such as the re-decoration of wards, installation of a new boiler, and the fencing of an enclosure for use as a playground. During the year a committee was formed, composed chiefly of members of the local Council and Council staff, with the object of supervising and facilitating the working of the Sick Bay.

Eighty-eight cases were dealt with as follows :—

<i>Scabies and/or Impetigo</i>				<i>Other conditions</i>	
<i>Evacuee</i>				<i>Evacuee</i>	
Under 5	..	29	2	1	4
5—15	..	34	11	2	2
Over 15	..	—	2	1	—
		—	—	—	—
		63	15	4	6
		—	—	—	—

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

RAINFALL

Month.	Station (Total depth in inches).		Greatest Fall in 24 hrs.	Date.
	Wellsway.	Somerdale.		
January ..	5.30	5.56	.74	6th
February ..	2.50	1.73	.55	1st
March	1.06	1.18	.8	25th
April .. ..	.78	.84	.25	24th
May	1.38	2.56	.52	10th
June	2.09	1.50	.5	1st
July	2.43	1.48	.45	20th
August	2.14	2.92	.48	26th
September ..	1.85	1.62	.5	10th
October ..	1.59	2.47	1.35	23rd
November ..	2.03	2.35	.78	2nd
December ..	1.75	1.59	.50	19th
Total ..	24.90	25.80	—	—

SEWAGE AND REFUSE DISPOSAL

With the exception of a few outlying properties all houses are connected to public sewers, the majority of which convey the sewage to the Disposal Works at Unity Road.

These works are now dealing with a larger daily flow of sewage than that for which they were originally designed, but the effluent is generally satisfactory.

Difficulty is experienced in drying off the sludge on the limited area available, although this has been mitigated somewhat by improvements to some of the beds.

The chief trouble now is surface water, large quantities of which find entrance to the sewers and reach the Disposal Works, where there is no by-pass or storm water tank.

The domestic and trade refuse is collected weekly from the whole of the area by the Council's workmen. It is taken to the Stidham Gravel Pit, sorted for material of value as salvage and the remainder disposed of by controlled tipping.

HOUSING

No new houses have been erected during the year. Regular inspection of houses under the Public Health and Housing Acts has not been possible under war conditions. A number of inspections have been carried out, however, and where necessary the

facilities available for the carrying out of urgent repairs have been employed.

The Council submitted proposals for the erection of 112 houses as their first year programme.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk

There are 24 producers of Milk in the area ; 10 of these are also retailers. A number of distributors produce or obtain their milk in rural areas.

There are two producers licensed by the Somerset County Council to produce tuberculin tested milk, and two produce accredited milk.

In addition, the District Council have issued the following licences to use special designations :—

- 1 Pasteurised Licence.
- 3 Supplementary Licences.
- 3 Dealers' Licences.

All premises used as Dairies are periodically inspected by the Sanitary Inspector.

Examination of milk samples is undertaken by the County Analyst and 29 samples of milk of special designations and 10 for examination for tubercle bacilli have been collected by the Sanitary Inspector on behalf of the County Council.

Bakehouses

There are 6 bakehouses situated within the Urban District and all have been satisfactorily maintained.

Food Premises

There are 22 premises registered for the preparation of food. During visits to grocers' and other shops, 136 tins of fruit, fish, preserves, etc., were condemned as unfit for food.

Meat, etc.

The 3 licensed slaughterhouses remain unused owing to the centralised slaughtering scheme of the Ministry of Food.

During visits to butchers' and other shops, 2 cwts. 3 qrs. 5 lbs. of meat (including tinned) were condemned as unfit for food.

Rats and Mice Destruction

The survey carried out in December under the Infestation Order 1943, disclosed no very serious infestation of Rats and Mice in the district. About 30 properties were affected, mainly to a small degree, and all were being dealt with by the occupiers. At the more seriously infested premises special staff are employed to deal with them.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

During the year under review, in addition to the new industries brought to the area as a result of the war, the old industries of manufacture of chocolate and cocoa, paper and envelopes, ochre, paint and chemicals continue to employ a fair proportion of the available population.

WATER

The Urban District is supplied by the West Gloucester Water Company and all except a number of outlying or scattered houses have a proper supply. Attempts are in progress to obtain a proper supply for two farms. Routine samples taken throughout the year have continued to give satisfactory results as regards both its bacteriological and chemical contents.

As stated in last year's Report, arrangements have been made with the West Gloucester Water Company for maintaining a constant supply of water to the district in case of dislocation of the normal supply by enemy action.

Frome Urban District Council.

Chairman of the Council H. M. SCOTT, Esq., J.P.

Chairman of the General Purposes
Committee O. L. SEWARD, Esq.

Sanitary Inspector A. I. BELL, Cert. S.I.E.J.B.

NURSE WHITE

(Appointed September, 1939, under Government Evacuation Scheme.)

PUBLIC OFFICES,
FROME.

Telephone : Frome 2348.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

Births

The number of live Births registered, adjusted for inward and outward transfers number 230.

				<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Legitimate	..	..	..	119	94	213
Illegitimate	..	..	..	9	8	17
				<hr/> 128	<hr/> 102	<hr/> 230

Still Births

				<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Legitimate	..	..	..	3	1	4
Illegitimate	..	..	..	1	—	1
				<hr/> 4	<hr/> 1	<hr/> 5

Birth Rate, per 1,000 estimated resident population mid 1943	..	..	..	..	..	19.01
Still Births, rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	..					21.28
Death Rate, rate per 1,000 estimated average population						12.56

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—

All Infants per 1,000 live births	..	..	..	39.13
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births				37.56
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births				58.82

Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis	..	..	..	..	Nil
„ „ Other Puerperal Causes	..	..	..	..	1
„ „ Cancer (all ages)	..	..	..	..	20
„ „ Measles (all ages)	..	..	..	..	Nil
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)			..	..	Nil
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)			..	..	Nil

DEATHS

The number of deaths, adjusted for inward and outward transfers total 152, 75 males and 77 females. The following Table indicates the cause of death :—

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Typhoid Fever	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	1	2	3
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	—	—	—
Syphilitic Diseases	—	—	—
Influenza	5	2	7
Measles	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Acute Infantile Encephalitis	—	1	1
Cancer of Oesoph. and Uterus	1	—	1
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	1	2	3
Cancer of Breast	—	5	5
Cancer of all Other Sites	9	2	11
Diabetes	—	2	2
Intracranial Vascular Lesions	7	8	15
Heart Disease	15	15	30
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	1	2	3
Bronchitis	4	2	6
Pneumonia	4	2	6
Other Respiratory Diseases	3	1	4
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	1	2	3
Diarrhoea under 2 years of age	—	—	—
Appendicitis	1	—	1
Other Digestive Diseases	5	4	9
Nephritis	3	1	4
Puerperal and Post Abortive Sepsis	—	—	—
Other Maternal Causes	—	1	1
Premature Birth	3	—	3
Congenital Malformation, Birth Injury	4	1	5
Suicide	—	—	—
Road Traffic Accidents	1	—	1
Other Violent Causes	1	—	1
All Other Causes	5	22	27
	75	77	152

Deaths under 1 year of age

There were 9 deaths of Infants under 1 year of age, 8 males and 1 female, divided as follows :—

Under 1 week ..	4	1-4 weeks ..	1
1-6 months ..	4	6-12 months ..	Nil

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (Other than Tuberculosis)

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases Admitted to Isolation Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever ..	32	28	—
Diphtheria	1	1	—
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid) ..	—	—	—
Measles	17	—	—
Whooping Cough ..	14	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	2	2	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—
Pneumonia	10	—	3
Acute Poliomyelitis ..	1	—	—
Erysipelas	7	1	—
	84	32	3

TUBERCULOSIS

Twelve cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified, 6 males and 6 females. One case of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis, female, was notified.

	<i>Total Cases notified</i>	<i>Total Deaths</i>
Respiratory	12	3
Non-Respiratory	1	—

No action was necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

SCABIES TREATMENT CENTRE

Whitewell Road

The out-patients attendances at the Centre for the treatment of Scabies dwindled to such an extent during the year that it was found necessary to discontinue the use of the premises for this purpose and to dispense with the services of the nurse. During the year 51 children received out-patient treatment.

WAR-TIME NURSERY

The war-time Nursery has continued to function satisfactorily during the year. Periodic visits have been made as often as time has permitted, and a thorough medical examination of each child carried out every three months.

The general health of the children has again been excellent and cases of infectious disease have been very few.

The Nursery was open for 258 days. The average attendance per session was 24, the highest number at any one session being 39. Total attendances for the year were 6,402.

INFANT WELFARE CENTRE

The figures for the year show a slight reduction on those for the previous year due chiefly to the reduction of the evacuee attendances to almost negligible figures.

The Centre continued to be very popular and there was no lessening in the interest shown by the ladies responsible for its working.

The total attendances during the year and the numbers of children on the Register at the end of the year were as follows :—

<i>Age</i>	<i>No. of Children</i>	<i>Attendances</i>
Under 1 year	133	871
1-5 years	72	253
	<hr/> 205	<hr/> 1124

Total attendances for 1942—1,152.

Average attendance per session—22.

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

Milk

Routine inspections of all Dairies and Cowsheds in the district have been carried out during the year, and despite the recruitment of trained dairy and farm workers for National Service, the general standards of milk production and control have been well maintained.

Four producers are licensed by the County Council to produce Tuberculin Tested Milk and one to produce Accredited Milk. In

addition the Frome Urban District Council have issued one licence to retail Pasteurised Milk and one to bottle and retail Tuberculin Tested Milk.

In August the Scheme for the Rationalisation of milk rounds came into force. This curtailed the number of milk retailers in each street, thus greatly reducing time and petrol in the delivery of milk.

Regulation 55G, which provides that only Tuberculin Tested, Accredited or Pasteurised or Heat Treated Milk, shall be sold in towns of over 10,000 population, will apply to Frome, and the Milk Retailers' Association has prepared a Scheme and submitted it to the Ministry of Food.

During the year a new Pasteurising Plant was erected in the town, and since the end of the year a Pasteurising Licence has been granted. Samples of Pasteurised Milk taken during the year were satisfactory.

Bakehouses

All Bakehouses were visited at least twice during the year, and the requirements as to lime washing, cleanliness, etc., have been well carried out.

Food Premises

All food premises have been visited, and particular attention was directed to infestation by rats and mice.

Meat and Food Inspection

Slaughtering at the Government Slaughterhouse in Merchants Barton continued throughout the year.

This slaughterhouse has been consistently overworked, especially in view of the shortage of staff. Credit is due to the staff for its sustained continuous hard work.

The arrangements for the handling and transport of meat, for the cleanliness of the vehicles and carriers' clothing, and for the general condition of the slaughterhouse, received constant attention. The removal of waste, offals, hides, etc., was carried out generally with sufficient speed, but during the year several complaints were received from workers in adjoining factories.

The number of carcasses examined during the year was as follows :—2,317 beasts, 1,293 calves, 6,187 sheep, 91 pigs.

As a result of these examinations the following carcasses and parts of carcasses and organs were found to be diseased and unfit for human consumption :—

Beasts

Carcases and Viscera (Tuberculosis)	..	..	44
Forequarters (Tuberculosis)	..	..	16
Hindquarters (Tuberculosis)	..	..	2
Hindquarters (Extensive Bruising)	..	..	2
Carcase and Viscera (Multiple Abscesses)	..	..	1
Carcase and Viscera (John's Disease)	..	..	1
Carcase and Viscera (Oedema)	..	..	1
Carcase and Viscera (Septic Pericarditis)	..	..	1
Carcase and Viscera (Extensive Bruising)	..	..	1
Heads (Tuberculosis)	..	..	209
Lungs (Tuberculosis)	..	..	291
Livers (Tuberculosis)	..	..	157
Mesenteries (Tuberculosis)	..	..	65
Heads (Actinomycosis)	..	..	4
Lungs (Melanosis)	..	..	2
Hearts (Pericarditis)	..	..	2
Hearts (Fatty Degeneration)	..	..	2
Livers (Distomatosis)	..	..	204
Livers, parts of (Distomatosis)	..	..	209
Livers (Angiomatosis)	..	..	23
Livers (Fatty Degeneration)	..	..	2
Bruised Beef	..	..	727 lbs.
Kidneys (Hydronephrosis)	..	..	2

Sheep

Carcase (Oedema)	..	..	1
Liver (Fatty Infiltration)	..	..	1
Lungs and Livers (Strongylus Rufescens)	..	..	481

Pigs

Carcases (Tuberculosis)	..	..	2
Carcases (Erysipelas)	..	..	1
Carcases (Multiple Abscesses)	..	..	2
Carcase (Septic Pericarditis)	..	..	1
Heads (Tuberculosis)	..	..	25
Plucks (Tuberculosis)	..	..	8

Calves

Carcase (Congenital Tuberculosis)	..	..	1
Carcases (Pyæmia)	..	..	2

In addition, a considerable amount of other food was surrendered as unfit for human consumption. The very considerable increase in the consumption of tinned food of all kinds is indicated by the amount surrendered, but the figures do not necessarily indicate any lessening in the purity and wholesomeness

of tinned food. Prior to the War, quantities of "blown" and damaged food were returned to wholesalers by the retailers concerned without reference to local authorities, but with the advent of rationing and "points values" the inspection and certification of food by Sanitary Inspectors has considerably increased.

In many cases damaged and dented tins, although possibly harder to sell, were found to be quite fit for food. All food surrendered was used for animal feeding, the majority being collected by the Surveyor and mixed with the pig-swill boiled at the sewage works and sold to farmers.

The following food was dealt with :—

- 539 tins of Meat and Meat products.
- 156 tins of Fish products.
- 236 tins of Fruit and vegetables.
- 166 tins of Condensed and evaporated Milk.
- 183 packets of Custard Powder.
- 43 lbs. of Bacon.
- 27 lbs. of Cheese.
- 60 lbs. of Sultanas.
- 12 lbs. of Pork Sausages.
- 5 st. of Sea Bream.
- 27 st. of Herrings.
- 2½ st. of Whiting.
- 32½ st. of Skate.

It is to be regretted that the large amount of fish surrendered arrived at Frome in an unfit condition, after varying periods in transit by rail in warm weather.

Common Lodging Houses

The two Common Lodging Houses in the town were regularly inspected and were well conducted.

Disinfection and Disinfestation

In addition to the routine disinfection of premises following cases of infectious disease, the arrangements for the disinfection and disinfestation of Army bedding, clothing, etc., were continued and all mattresses and blankets issued under the Government Evacuation Scheme were disinfected before return to store.

One bug-infested house was disinfested with satisfactory results.

Housing

It has not been possible under war conditions to maintain the normal standard of housing repairs. Various nuisances and sanitary defects were dealt with by informal action, and satisfactory results obtained. Statutory notices were served in respect

of one defective floor, and in respect of two houses which were in a filthy condition.

Rats and Mice

The preliminary survey required by the Ministry of Food was carried out during the latter part of the year. This showed four major infestations and a number of minor infestations. The directions of the Ministry are now being carried out, and it is expected that at the end of 1944 the number of infested premises will be very small.

Sewage and Refuse Disposal

The town sewers serve practically the whole of the district, and with the exception of a few houses on the outskirts, all houses are connected to the sewerage system which conveys sewage to the Outfall Works at Spring Gardens.

Water

The supply continues to be satisfactory in quality and quantity. The samples taken during the year were satisfactory.

Frome Rural District Council.

Chairman of the Council W. M. JONES, Esq., J.P.

Chairman of the General Purposes
Committee W. M. JONES, Esq., J.P.

Sanitary Inspector H. L. BURT, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I.,
C. Meat & Foods I., C.S.I.E.B.
(Lond.).

PUBLIC OFFICES,
FROME.

Telephone : 2625.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

Births

The number of live Births registered, adjusted for inward and outward transfers total 181.

				<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Legitimate	..	..	..	87	87	174
Illegitimate	..	..	..	5	2	7
				—	—	—
				92	89	181

Still Births

				<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Legitimate	..	..	..	3	1	4
Illegitimate	..	..	..	—	—	—
				—	—	—
				3	1	4

Birth Rate, per 1,000 estimated resident population mid 1943	..	..	..	..	..	17.49
Still Births, rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	..					21.62
Death Rate, rate per 1,000 estimated average population						10.72

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—

All Infants per 1,000 live births	..	..	..	27.62
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births				28.74
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births				Nil

Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis	..	..	..	..	Nil
„ „ Other Puerperal Causes	..	..	..	..	1
„ „ Cancer (all ages)	..	..	..	..	13
„ „ Measles (all ages)	..	..	..	..	Nil
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	..	..	..	..	Nil
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	..	..	..	..	Nil

DEATHS

The number of deaths, adjusted for inward and outward transfers total 110, 52 males and 58 females. The following Table indicates the cause of death :—

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Typhoid Fever	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	1	3	4
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	—	—	—
Syphilitic Diseases	—	—	—
Influenza	1	3	4
Measles	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Acute Infantile Encephalitis	—	—	—
Cancer of Oesoph. and Uterus	—	1	1
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	—	1	1
Cancer of Breast	—	1	1
Cancer of all Other Sites	6	4	10
Diabetes	—	1	1
Intracranial Vascular Lesions	6	5	11
Heart Disease	15	17	32
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	—	2	2
Bronchitis	4	4	8
Pneumonia	1	4	5
Other Respiratory Diseases	2	1	3
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	2	—	2
Diarrhoea under 2 years of age	—	—	—
Appendicitis	—	1	1
Other Digestive Diseases	1	3	4
Nephritis	3	—	3
Puerperal and Post Abortive Sepsis	—	—	—
Other Maternal Causes	—	1	1
Premature Birth	—	—	—
Congenital Malformation, Birth Injury	2	1	3
Suicide	—	—	—
Road Traffic Accidents	—	—	—
Other Violent Causes	2	—	2
All Other Causes	6	5	11
	52	58	110

Deaths under 1 year of age

There were 5 deaths of Infants under 1 year of age, 4 males and 1 female, divided as follows :—

Under 1 week ..	1	1-4 weeks ..	Nil
1-6 months ..	2	6-12 months ..	2

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (Other than Tuberculosis)

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases Admitted to Isolation Hospital.	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever ..	8	3	—
Diphtheria ..	—	—	—
Enteric Fever (includ- in Paratyphoid) ..	—	—	—
Measles ..	28	—	—
Whooping Cough ..	14	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	2	—	—
Ophthalmia Neona- torum ..	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Menin- gitis ..	—	—	—
Dysentery ..	1	—	—
Pneumonia ..	2	—	2
Acute Poliomyelitis ..	—	—	—
Erysipelas ..	1	—	—
	56	3	2

TUBERCULOSIS

Seven cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified, 5 males and 2 females. One case of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis, male, was notified.

	<i>Total Cases notified</i>	<i>Total Deaths</i>
Respiratory ..	7 (1 Army)	4
Non-Respiratory ..	1	—

No action was necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

District Council Water Supplies (Springs)

The following villages in the district are supplied from the Council's own Springs :—

Coleford, Buckland Dinham, Leigh-on-Mendip, Norton St. Philip, Rode, Beckington, Standerwick, Nunney, Wanstrow.

The following are supplied by the Council from bulk supplies of adjacent authorities :—

Rodden, Oldford, Spring Gardens, Marston Back Lane and the Mount. Extensions from the Frome Urban District Council's mains.

Upper and Lower Vobster and Hoare's Lane. Extensions from Norton Radstock U.D.C. mains.

Kilmersdon Common. Extensions from the Shepton Mallet R.D.C. mains.

Village Pump Supplies : Faulkland, Laverton, Upton Noble, Rudge, and Tytherington.

Private Supplies

The following villages obtain their supply from private systems :

Berkley, Elm, Farleigh Hungerford, Tellisford, Hemington, Lullington, Witham Friary, Wolverton.

The village of Kilmersdon is supplied by private agreement from the mains of the Norton Radstock U.D.C.

The following refers to the principal water supplies :—

Coleford.—This supply remained abundant for all needs and apart from the usual maintenance works no special difficulty was experienced.

Leigh-on-Mendip.—The supply of water from the springs was ample to meet the requirements of the village during the greater part of the year, but the seasonal shortage during the summer to the higher parts of the village was again experienced.

At Tadhil the work for the installation of an automatically controlled electric pump was completed, and it is now possible to supplement the village supply by water from this source.

Buckland Dinham.—This supply was again abundant for all needs.

Norton St. Philip, Rode, Beckington, and Standerwick Regional Supply.—These works which have been in operation just over 6 years, have again provided a continuous supply to the area concerned.

Further serious trouble occurred with the pumps during the year, ultimately resulting in a complete breakdown to both.

A complete reconstruction of the pumps to an improved design was carried out by the makers, at a considerable cost to the Council. During the progress of this work an alternative supply of water was obtained from the Lyde Spring, and in connection with this I should like to record my appreciation of the services rendered by the National Fire Service from Bath, in undertaking the work of raising water from the spring to the reservoir.

The total volume of water pumped to the mains during the year was 10 million gallons.

Mells.—The yield of these springs was ample to meet requirements during the greater part of the year, but during the summer months was insufficient to maintain a constant supply to the houses at the higher levels.

Nunney.—I have again to record a constant supply of water of the highest quality from the spring at Gaer Hill throughout the year, and apart from occasional breakdowns occurring through leakages on the line of the trunk main to the reservoirs, the supply to the village was well maintained.

Wanstrow.—These springs maintained a supply to the village throughout the year, but the usual summer diminution in the yield was again experienced, and caution in the use of water had to be exercised.

Quarterly Analysis.—The sampling of the Council's supplies has been regularly carried out during the year, samples being submitted to the County Analyst.

Sewage Disposal

Coleford.—These sewage works have received regular attention and the final effluent from them has been satisfactory.

Nunney.—These works have received regular attention and no complaints have been received in regard to them.

Rode.—The new sewage disposal works have continued in operation, but the very large and varying quantity of the sewage adversely affects the satisfactory working of the plant. The Council's consulting engineers have submitted proposals for the elimination of the large volume of surface water which gains access to the sewers, but so far it has not been possible to carry them out.

Refuse Collection

The monthly collection of indestructible house refuse is still being carried out over practically the whole area, and at Coleford a weekly collection of all house refuse is made.

Salvage

A considerable amount of work has been entailed in the preparation and carrying out of a scheme for the collection and disposal of salvage and also for special book drives.

Rats and Mice Destruction

Activities in regard to this matter have been maintained throughout the year, and a considerable quantity of poison biscuits have been distributed to farmers and others throughout the district. A number of interviews were held during the year with rat officers from the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Food, and attendances were also made at conferences and lectures on rat destruction.

Eradication of Bugs

One case of bug infestation was brought to my notice during the year, and this arose in a cottage which had been occupied by evacuees. Persistent efforts resulted in them being prevented from becoming established in the fabric of the building, and they were eventually eradicated. Their seat of habitation was located in an antique wooden bedstead.

Milk Supply

Regular visits of inspection to farms and dairies were made during the year, and informal action taken where necessary was sufficient to deal with all matters arising.

Three samples from Tuberculin Tested Producers and 19 samples from Accredited Producers were taken on behalf of the County Council and the samples submitted to the County Analyst.

At the end of the year there were 94 Accredited and 14 Tuberculin Tested Producers on the Register.

Number of Producers on the Register, 382.

Number of Distributors on the Register :—

(a) Distributors only, 1.

(b) Distributors who are also Producers, 70.

Number of Licensed Milk Producers :—

Supplementary Pasteurising, 1.

Food Premises

All food premises have been visited during the year and supervision exercised in the methods of handling and preparation of foodstuffs. The following tinned foodstuffs were examined and condemned :—

44 tins of Milk.

18 tins of Meat and Meat Products.

14 tins of Fish.

19 tins of Fruit and Vegetables.

Food Decontamination

Lectures and meetings in connection with this have been attended during the year, and arrangements for dealing with this emergency made.

Housing

Under the Housing Acts it has not been possible under war conditions to maintain the progress of recent years, but nevertheless all matters arising from Housing defects and nuisances have been satisfactorily dealt with.

Four houses for Agricultural Workers were allocated to the district during the year and a site was chosen at Wanstrow.

River Pollution

Several straw pulping plants have been set up by farmers during the year, and in all these cases consideration has been given to the possibility of pollution of streams arising, before consent has been given to their use for this purpose.

General

Owing to the large and varied responsibilities in connection with war emergency measures which have been thrown upon the Sanitary and Water Department, a very considerable amount of time had to be devoted to these matters.

